

## HIRAM CRONK LIES IN STATE.

## UNIFORMS VARIOUS APPEAR AT THE CITY HALL.

Knee Breeches of the Minute Men Had the Oldest Flavor—Hearse Substituted at the Last Moment for a Caisson to Carry the Coffin in the Military Procession.

The public funeral of Private Hiram Cronk of Booneville, N. Y., arranged for by the Board of Aldermen some time before he died, began yesterday, when the body of the last survivor of the War of 1812 arrived at the Grand Central Station and was borne down to the black-draped City Hall, to lie in state there, as the body of Gen. Grant lay.

From remarks made along the route of the funeral procession it seemed to be an impressive amount of ignorance among the populace as to whose funeral it was. The same thing was observable in the crowd attracted by the unusual happenings about the City Hall to take a look at the body of the old soldier of almost a century ago. Nevertheless, as a spectacle it was interesting. Seldom has there been a chance to see such a display of uniforms, small though the number of the wearers was.

Alderman Wirth of Brooklyn had the honor of introducing the resolution for the public funeral here, but friends of Col. Richard F. Butt, commander of U. S. Grant Post, G. A. R., say that it was Col. Butt's idea originally. Col. Butt more or less took charge of things yesterday, marching alone behind the mounted police and ahead of the Regulars.

Col. Butt, when he heard that Mr. Cronk had died at the age of 105, went to Booneville and took charge up there. He accompanied the body to this city. The funeral party came on a special car as the guests of the New York Central. With the body were Mr. Cronk's four children, Philander, aged 82; William, aged 72; John, aged 80, and Mrs. Sarah Rowley, aged 71. There was a grandson, too, and Mrs. Sarah C. Morehouse, an adopted daughter of Mrs. Rowley, and the only woman of this State who is a Colonel except in the Salvation Army. She is honorary Colonel of the Society of 1812. Mrs. Morehouse, after the body reached the City Hall, appeared in her Colonel's uniform, with her breast covered with medals.

Waiting at the Grand Central Station to receive the body were a detail of mounted policemen in their new uniforms, Company F of the Eighth Infantry from Governors Island, under Capt. Johnson, and in uniforms with light blue facings twenty-two members of the Society of 1812 under Col. Asa Bird Gardiner, five Minute Men, a delegation of U. S. Grant Post and several men in plain clothes who got into the line as members of civic bodies of the city that had been expected to form a division by themselves. Col. Gardiner's men, in black uniforms with gold trimmings, high hats with visors, high stocks and old curved sabers in black leather scabbards, such as hang as heirlooms in many American homes, excited perhaps the most interest. The five Minute Men, who showed up in knee breeches and the Colonial costume of the Minute Men, each coat a different color, excited great curiosity as they stood in the gutter of Forty-second street.

At the start there was a bit of confusion, due to the arrival of a gun caisson sent by Major Gen. Roe. Col. Butt did not want a caisson and had ordered a hearse. Alderman Wirth said that he thought the caisson would have been better, but he let Col. Butt have his way. The explanation was that it was the wish of members of the family. One of the family said that it would have been all the same to them. The hearse was used, the caisson going back to Gen. Roe, much to the disappointment of the crowd. Some of the Aldermen said they thought that perhaps more people would have known what was going on if the remains had been borne on the gun carriage instead of in a regulation hearse, which certainly spoiled the military character of the spectacle. Only eight Aldermen appeared. Some carriages were sent home and many of the other Aldermen carried Alderman apiece. The Aldermen wore high hats and white gloves. As the funeral procession moved down Fifth avenue to the Chopin funeral march, played by the Governors Island band, this was the formation:

Mounted police.  
Col. Butt.  
Regulars from Governors Island.  
Col. Asa Bird Gardiner.  
Twenty-two members of the Society of 1812.  
Drummer and four in red coats.  
Five Minute Men.  
Hearse, surrounded by U. S. Grant Post.  
Carriages containing eight Aldermen.  
Two carriages containing members of the Cronk family.

The line of march was down Fifth avenue to Washington Square, thence through West Fourth street to Broadway and down Broadway to City Hall Park.

At the City Hall plaza the escort presented arms while the coffin was borne up the steps by eight members of Grant Post. It was covered by an American flag, on top of which were the cap, uniform and sword of the Society of 1812, which Cronk was a member. The coffin was set on a bier just south of the rotunda, which was draped in black. Then Howard Bell and T. J. Oakley, the oldest of the Society of 1812, and Comrades Myles O'Reilly and John Baker of Grant Post took up positions, two at each end of the bier. Sixteen policemen ranged themselves in two lines at each side of it and those who wanted to view the remains passed between the two lines of police and the bier.

The body of Private Cronk was attired in the uniform of the Society of 1812, with a broad white sash over the breast. Floral pieces sent by different patriotic organizations were heaped around the bier. The guard of 1812 men and G. A. R. veterans was relieved every half hour. Col. Butt established his headquarters for the day and night in the Aldermanic chamber. The Cronk family went to a hotel as guests of the city. The crowd that witnessed the arrival of the remains formed two lines and passed through the City Hall. After this crowd disappeared persons strolled in singly and in pairs now and then took a look at the remains, which were on view through the evening. Toward 6 o'clock many of the homeward bound dropped in.

This morning the body will be escorted by Troop C and the Fourteenth Regiment over the Bridge and by way of Greene avenue, Bushwick avenue and Jamaica avenue, Brooklyn, to Cypress Hills Cemetery. There it will be interred on Victory Hill, where other veterans of the second war with England lie.

## Overdue Steamer Castilla Given Up for Lost.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, May 17.—After more than a month of waiting, word has reached any of the agencies of the Hamburg-American Line with regard to the fate of the steamer Castilla, which is now fifty-three days overdue at Vera Cruz. This steamer, with a very valuable cargo of European made goods and her crew of forty sailors, has been practically given up for lost.

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